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Voice in Intelligence Organization and Spending

Washington, DC – Rep. Steve Israel (D – NY) was appointed to the House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D – CA) announced this week. The panel was created at the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission to promote better oversight and information sharing of classified information among U.S. intelligence agencies.

"One hundred families in my district lost loved ones on 9/11. The failure of our intelligence agencies to thwart the attacks that day exposed dangerous problems in our intelligence community. Our agencies weren't communicating and additional Congressional oversight was needed. The 9/11 Commission wisely recommended the creation of the House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel. As part of the panel, I will have the opportunity to examine our intelligence community and work to ensure that New York and our nation remain protected," said Rep. Israel.

"Congressman Israel has been a leader in the House on national security matters, which is why I appointed him to the Intelligence Oversight Panel," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "In his new role, he will be a strong voice on intelligence issues of great importance to New York State and our nation."

The 13-member panel includes 10 Members from the House Appropriations Committee and three Members from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It operates as a select subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

The charter for the panel, approved by the House, says the panel was established to "review and study on a continuing basis budget requests for and execution of intelligence activities; make recommendations to relevant subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations; and, on an annual basis, prepare a report to the Defense Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations containing budgetary and oversight observations and recommendations for use by such subcommittee in preparation of the classified annex to the bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense."

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.